project must come from sources other than Indian Public financial Institutions.

* Upto hundred per cent (100%) foreign equity participation can be permitted for projects set by foreign private investors.
* The rates for depreciation in respect of assets have been liberalised.
* The customs duty for import of power equipment has been reduced to 20% and this rate has also been extended to machinery required for modernisation and renovation of power plants.
* A five year tax holiday has been allowed.
* The excise duty on a large number of capital goods and instruments in the power sector has been reduced.
* The excise duty on a large number of capital goods and instruments in the power sector has been reduced.
* Upto 16% return on the foreign equity included in the tariff can be provided in the respective foreign currency.
* Fixed costs can be recovered at 68.5% PLF for thermal and at 90% availability for Hydro plants. Attractive incentives are prescribed for performance beyond this PLF.
* Tariff can be fixed in deviation of norms stipulated in the March, 1992 tariff notification provided that the per unit tariff does not exceed the per unit tariff worked out on the basis of the norms.

(f) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) along with Spectrum Technologies, USA and Jaya Food Industries, Hyderabad have jointly promoted Spectrum Power Generation Limited for setting up 208 MW COGT Power project at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

(g) Government of India is closely monitoring progress of all the private power projects including joint venture power projects proposed by public sector undertakings with private companies with a view to remove bottlenecks, if any, in early execution of the projects.

Pooyamkutty Hydel Project

110. SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pooyamkutty Hydel Power Project proposed by the State Government of Kerala is pending for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONCENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The Pooyamkutty Hydroelectrict Power Project in Kerala (2x120 MW) was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs.250 crores. The project was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in August. 1986 subject to the State Government's obtaining the forest clearance. Environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala was accorded by the Government of India in June, 1985. The forest clearance for the project has been rejected. The State Government has represented for a re-examination of the decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposal has been discussed with the State Government and Ministry of Environment and Forests and in October, 1996 a Committee has been constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forests for indepth analysis of the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Project.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

111. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAMKRISHA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have discontinued its much publicised 'TATKAL SEVA' scheme regarding issue of LPG connections sine-die;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries of this scheme during the last six months; and

(d) whether the Government propose to restore the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Total number of beneficiaries of this scheme during the last six month i.e. April to September, 1996, is 54,777.

(d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Sanitation and mater Supply

112. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects regarding cleanliness, supply of drinking water, development of rural areas of